IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-22.

Please amend claims 23 and 24 as follows:

23. (AMENDED) A method of treating an individual for a condition selected from the group consisting of exposure to DNA damaging agents, abnormal cell proliferation characteristic of psoriasis, atherosclerosis, cancer, and arterial restenosis, undesirable immune response accompanying rejection of a transplant and an autoimmune disease, comprising administering to the patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide having at least four sequential amino acids from a negative regulatory region which maps to residues 361-383 (SEQ. ID. No. 12) of p53, said peptide not being a subfragment of human p53, wherein said peptide activates DNA binding of wild-type p53 or a p 53 mutant containing a single amino acid substitution, said mutant selected from the group consisting of p53-ser^{239}, p53-his^{273}, .p53-gln^{248}, p53-trp^{282}, and p53-cys^{273}, in a p53 DNA binding assay and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (AMENDED) A method for treating a patient having a tumor expressing a p53 mutant whose ability to bind DNA may be activated by peptides, modified peptides or peptidomimetics corresponding to all or a portion of the negative regulatory region which maps to residues 361-383 of p53, said method comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide having at least four sequential amino acids from a negative regulatory region which maps to residues 361-383 (SEQ. ID. No. 12) of p53, said peptide not being a subfragment of human p53, wherein said peptide activates DNA binding of wild-type p53 or a p 53 mutant containing a single amino acid substitution, said mutant selected from the group consisting of p53-ser^{239}, p53-his^{273}, .p53-gln^{248}, p53-trp^{282}, and p53-cys^{273}, in a p53 DNA binding assay and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

SEQUENCE LISTING